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NORTH VIETNAM

UP TO JUNE 14, 1967

2,024

U.S. PLANES DOWNED

The L.A.F. fighters going in search of the enemy

SOUTH VIETNAM

CONTINUING THE BRILLIANT VICTORIES OF THE WINTER 1966-SPRING 1967 CAMPAIGN

QUANG-NAM — DA-NANG

Completely foil Operation "Lien Ket": Wiping Out 7,500 Enemies Including 5,295 G.I.'s.

QUANG-NGAI

Puts Out Of Action 1,860 Enemies.

MY-THO

Foils "Pacification" Operation Launched By Over 10 battalions: 900 Enemies Wiped Out, 6 Aircraft Downed or Damaged, 10 War Vessels Sunk

PHU-YEN

Annihilates Or Captures More Than 530 South Korean Mercenaries

THE D.R.V. GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES AND UNDERTAKES TO RESPECT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY *of Cambodia within her present borders*

STATEMENT OF THE D.R.V. GOVERNMENT

In accordance with Article 12 of the Final Declaration of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indo-China, the member countries of this Conference have undertaken to respect Cambodia's national rights and territorial integrity, and not to intervene into that country's internal affairs.

However, while conducting their war of aggression in Vietnam and military intervention in Laos, the U.S. imperialists, in collusion with the authorities in Saigon and Bangkok, have multiplied their threats against the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and are scheming for a revision of her present borders. It is clear that they have trampled underfoot the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China and gravely undermined peace in Indo-China and in this part of the world.

Under the clearsighted leadership of their Head of State, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the Khmer people have struggled resolutely against the manoeuvres and acts of sabotage of the U.S. imperialists to defend their sacred national interests.

The Vietnamese people have wholeheartedly been supporting this just struggle of the Khmer people. In the struggle against the common enemy — the U.S. imperialist aggressors — the close friendship and militant solidarity between the Vietnamese people and the brother Khmer people have been consolidated and developed with each passing day.

True to its consistent policy toward the Kingdom of Cambodia, i.e. to respect her independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam solemnly declares that :

1. It recognizes and undertakes to respect the territorial integrity of Cambodia within her present borders.

2. It entirely approves of the May 31, 1967 Statement of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation on the latter's recognition of the present borders between South Vietnam and Cambodia.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam recognizes these borders and undertakes to respect them.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is convinced that the strengthening of the relations of good neighbourhood and the development of the friendship and mutual confidence between Vietnam and Cambodia conform to the interests of the two countries and to those of the common struggle conducted by the Indo-Chinese peoples against the U.S. imperialist aggressors to defend their respective sacred national rights and to safeguard peace in Indo-China, South-East Asia and the world.

Hanoi, June 8, 1967

D.R.V. Education in the Struggle Against U.S. Aggression, For National Salvation

NGUYEN VAN HUYEN
Minister of Education

By mid-1964 when they began their escalation to North Vietnam, the American aggressors struck at Xuan Giang primary schools, Nghi Xuan district, Ha Tinh province. Since then, more than 400 schools have been hit. Thousands of pupils and teachers have been killed or injured.

However, the Yankees are grossly mistaken in thinking that these raids can browbeat the Vietnamese people, harm per education in the D.R.V. and prevent the training of the young generation. Indeed, their frenzied attacks have caused a number of difficulties to the Vietnamese teachers and pupils : classes have been dispersed; educational facilities curtailed. . In some places school time has been changed, causing a certain hindrance to teaching. Pupils living in towns have had to evacuate, thus meeting with many impediments.

But all these difficulties cannot check the march forward of 5 million teachers, pupils and students in North Vietnam. By promoting the revolutionary spirit and the indomitable spirit of the nation and by relying on the people, the educational service has overcome many war-time difficulties and turned difficulties into advantages : profiting by the need of dispersal, all schools have been split and shifted near bases of production, which brings them in closer touch with life and makes them serve the political tasks and production of the region more efficiently and timely. To cope with the U.S. frequent raids, the school management, helped by the people of North Vietnam, have built a solid system of trenches and shelters, thus reducing casualties to the minimum. The lack of text-books, writing paper, school requisites and teachers has been remedied by making the fullest use of old books, by improving to the utmost the contents and the methods of teaching and studying and by a high sense of thrift.

As a result, the educational service has recorded many great achievements despite the increasing havoc wrought by a more and more destructive war.

Most outstanding is the all-round development of the service of pre-school, general, complementary education, training of cadres and teachers in all regions : mountain, plain, seaside, and area of fierce fighting. At the beginning of the 1965—1966 school-year, the first year of struggle against U.S. aggression, the number of general schools rose by 10 percent and that of students and teachers has been remedied by making the fullest use of old books, by improving to the utmost the contents and the methods of teaching and studying and by a high sense of thrift.

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Most outstanding is the all-round development of the service of pre-school, general, complementary education, training of cadres and teachers in all regions : mountain, plain, seaside, and area of fierce fighting. At the beginning of the 1965—1966 school-year, the first year of struggle against U.S. aggression, the number of general schools rose by 10 percent and that of students and teachers by 9 percent compared with the previous year. In the 1966-1967 school year the pupils of general education now accounted for 3,329,613 or 13 percent more as against the preceding year (with the number of secondary education pupils rising by 32 percent). Pre-school education showed a vigorous development too ; while the number of pupils enrolled in the 1965-1966 school year was higher than in 1964-1965 ; in 1966-1967 this figure increased by 75 per cent compared with last year.

Up to now 21 provinces have fulfilled their five-year plan in complementary and technical education. Many innovations have been introduced in complementary education with the setting up of " Three - Responsibility " schools for women, schools for minority youth, the elementary complementary educational and technical school set up in the villages of the delta in which the pupils study on the job.

To meet the requirements of the people, the pedagogical branch has opened 95 teachers' schools to train cadres from pre-school education to higher learning, including teachers of physical culture and sports.

In such places like Cam Binh village, Cam Xuyen district, Ha Tinh province, despite increasing enemy raids, there are up to 57 learners out of every 100 people.

The second achievement is that the general level of education has been maintained and even improved in some aspects. Marked progress has been noticed into the ideology and political standard of teachers and pupils. The determination to defeat the American aggressors and revolutionary heroism have been translated into the ardour to teach and to study, the readiness to serve production and fighting, the numerous examples of self-denial to save one's pupils or one's comrades, to protect the State and the people's property. The success of the " Two-Good " emulation drive has helped boost the quality of education. Last year, the educational service had thousands of advanced schools, nearly 400 socialist

(*Continued page 6*)

DURING its three-week stay in Vietnam, the Cuban Scientists' Commission for Investigation of the Aggression War Crimes by the U.S. Imperialists in Vietnam visited many provinces in the North, Centre and South of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Besides the study of various documents on U.S. crimes, the Commission directly heard many victims of U.S. air raids. It also examined many wounded people who had been hospitalized. Noteworthy is that in some of the visited provinces, the Commission witnessed U.S. bombings which killed the civilian population. In a village of Ha Tinh province situated about 500 metres off the very road by which the Commission travelled, the plane dive bombed twice and killed a mother and her four children and a man, and wound three other people. Two days later, at 6 a.m., U.S. bombs killed a child pasturing his buffalo in the field about 100 metres from the place where the Commission stayed.

The above-mentioned acts were clearly related in a final statement issued at the press conference of June 5, 1967 held in Hanoi. In the same statement, the Commission, by concrete and scientific documents, especially reached significant conclusions.

After pointing to Washington's aggressive war which encroaches on Vietnam's freedom, independence, sovereignty and unity, violating international agreements and particularly the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the statement said :

"*This crime of aggression is a fundamental crime which has led to all the crimes committed by the United States against Vietnam.... The Vietnamese people have full rights, moral as well as legal, to carry on their struggle till the last U.S. aggressor be driven out of their country.*

The Cuba scientists have condemned the use by the U.S. government of all its immense technical and scientific resources, most various anti-personnel weapons such as 3,000-lb bombs, steel-pellet bombs, napalm bombs and phosphorous bombs, toxic chemicals and gases having a particularly noxious action on the nervous system. After pointing out that some of these crimes have been used for the first time in the world, the statement stressed, "*The criminal Johnson administration has selected Vietnam as a testing ground in an attempt to develop its reactionary global strategy against the people who want to free themselves from the imperialist yoke*".

During its trip to the provinces, the Commission witnessed the systematic destruction or razing of towns. In these towns, hospitals, churches, pagodas and educational establishments have been selected as targets by the Yankee criminals. In some places, several hospitals evacuated more than once, have been spotted again and repeatedly bombed. The variety of weapons used by the U.S. aggressors for causing heaviest casualties among human beings, the scope of their utilization, massive, premeditated, systematic and repeated attacks against civilian targets and populated centres, all that leads the Commission to confirm that : "*The unjust and illegal war of aggression waged by the United States of America against Vietnam, is of a genocide character... The U.S. government is guilty of a war criminal on the ground of the 'Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crime on Genocide' approved on December 11, 1946, by the U.N. General Assembly*".

In their statement, the Cuban scientists praised the "heroism and tenacity of the Vietnamese people and their exploits in the right and production scored in their anti U.S. struggle for national salvation.

The statement was illustrated by the head of the Cuban Commission, Dr. Ruban Rodriguez Cavalla, who, by vivid images, expressed his thoughts and feelings about U.S. crimes in Vietnam and the struggle of the North Vietnamese people after what he had seen during his trip. Dr. Abelardo Morano Bonila, a biologist, condemned Washington for having destroyed North Vietnam's natural resources. He especially denounced the U.S. bombings of dykes in order to cause floods and death of millions of people. Dr. Jose A. Presno Albavaran, the first surgeon of Cuba's armed forces, presented through concrete data and X-ray films, the terrific consequences caused by steel-pellet bombs and napalm bombs upon the bodies of the victims of U.S. air raids whom he had contacted on the spot.

The statement and proofs showed by the Cuban scientists have given a deep and very fruitful impression at the press conference.

STATEMENT BY CUBAN SCIENTISTS:

"The Crime of Aggression Is A Fundamental Crime Which Has Led to All the Crimes Perpetrated by the U.S. against Vietnam"

IN NORTH VIETNAM

450 General Education Schools and Many Colleges and Vocational Schools in North Vietnam Raided by U.S. Planes

THE Ministry of Education of the D.R.V. has issued a statement denouncing U.S. deliberate air raids on North Vietnam 'schools. By the end of April 1967 more than 450 general education schools had been bombed and strafed and many teachers and pupils killed or wounded.

The statement listed many barbarous crimes committed by the U.S. against the educational establishments in its new escalation of the North Vietnam. Following are a few instances :

On April 10, 1967 U.S. planes raided the Dien Bien elementary school in Lai Chau province, killing two teachers and wounding another and many pupils.

On May 13, 1967, U.S. planes attacked the primary and elementary school of Tong Bat (Ha Tay province). They dropped 6 CBU's on the school during class time, killing one teacher and 11 pupils and wounding one teacher and 21 pupils.

In particular, during their raids on Hanoi, American planes attacked the primary and elementary schools of Co Loa and the Viet Hung secondary school in Dong Anh suburban district (April 25) and the primary and elementary school of Khuong Dinh (May 5) killing and wounding many teachers and pupils.

The Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education of the D.R.V. has also issued a statement denouncing U.S. repeated raids on a number of colleges and vocational schools in the D.R.V. by American aircraft.

The Teachers Training College of Vinh (Nghe An province) together with the local engineering school, for instance, have been completely destroyed by repeated air raids. Many students were killed or wounded.

Many other colleges and vocational schools have also been deliberately raided once or many times such as the Water Conservancy College, the Hanoi University and various medical schools, teachers training schools and agricultural schools in Nam Ha, Viet Bac, Thai Binh, Ha Tinh, Yen Bai, Son La, Nghe An... In particular, during a raid on May 12, 1967 on Hanoi, American aircraft dropped many explosive and steel-pellet bombs on many colleges and vocational schools such as the Port and Telecommunication School, the Building School, the Water Conservancy School, the Foreign Languages School and a section of the Hanoi University.

In their statements the two educational bodies of the D.R.V. called on all educational organizations and workers, all organizations looking after the interests of pupils and teachers and all pupils' parents and political and social activists in the world to raise their voices and take firm actions to stay the criminal hands of the U.S. imperialists.

VIETNAM – CAMBODIA
MILITANT SOLIDARITY

THE "Cambodian borders" is a problem left by the colonialism which formerly ruled over the Indo-Chinese countries. It was settled at the 1954 Geneva conference and paragraph 12 of the Final Declaration of the Conference clearly provides that the participating countries of the Conference undertake to respect the national rights and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

However right after the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China, the U.S. imperialists brazenly trampled on those agreements and intervened in Cambodia as well as in Vietnam and Laos. The U.S. set up the S.E.A.T.O. aggressive military bloc and arbitrarily put South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos under the "protection umbrella" of this bloc.

While the Cambodian people, under the leadership of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, are firmly taking the road of independence, neutrality and peace, the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen are frantically putting pressure on Cambodia with a view to making her give up her correct foreign policy. They demand a "revision" of Cambodia's borders and declared that they had the "right" to cross her borders.

The U.S. imperialists and their henchmen have repeatedly sent their troops into Cambodia's territory to massacre Cambodian civilians, burn houses and plunder the population. They have also plotted assassinations and organized sabotages and provocations against the Cambodian Government.

According to statistics released by Cambodia, in 1965 the U.S. and its Saigon puppets made 374 intrusions into Cambodia's territory. The figure rose to 389 in 1966. The raiders killed or wounded hundreds of Cambodians. The U.S. henchmen in Thailand have also launched many military attacks on Cambodia's territory including the attack on the Preah Vihear Temple of Cambodia in April, 1966.

Recently, Nguyen Cao Ky, the puppet South Vietnam "premier" once again insolently threatened to invade Cambodia. The policy of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen towards Cambodia over the past decade and more is clearly a policy of intervention, aggression and war provocation against the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia, a hostile policy towards the Cambodian people. This policy is aimed at opposing not only Cambodia but also the patriotic movement of all the peoples of Indo-China and at sabotaging peace in Indo-China and South-East Asia.

In the struggle waged by Cambodia against the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, the Government of the D.R.V. and the Vietnamese people have always sided with the Cambodian Government and people, resolutely supported Cambodia's just struggle and strongly denounced and condemned the acts of intervention and war provocation of the U.S. and its henchmen against Cambodia. The Government of the D.R.V. and the Vietnamese people have always recognized and respected the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

In his answers to Australian journalist W. Burchett in April 1964, President Ho Chi Minh declared that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam had strictly respected the sovereignty, territorial integrity, neutrality of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the present borders between Vietnam and Cambodia.

In the government report submitted to the National Assembly in June 1964, Premier Pham Van Dong reaffirmed that the government and people of Vietnam recognized and respected the present borders between Vietnam and Cambodia.

Since its foundation, the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation has many times declared its recognition of and respect for the territorial integrity of Cambodia and its full support for the struggle of the Cambodian government and people against the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in defence of her independence, neutrality, peace and territorial integrity.

The policy of the D.R.V., Government and the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and the Vietnamese people and of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Khmer people to unit and support each other in the common struggle against the aggression and intervention by the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen has helped consolidate and develop day by day the friendship between the two neighbour countries.

The recognition and respect of the territorial integrity of Cambodia within her present borders by the D.R.V. Government and the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation marks a new step in the splendid development of the friendly relations between Vietnam and Cambodia.

This has once again brought out the Vietnamese peoples' consistent stand to give unreserved support to the brother Khmer people and to stand shoulder to shoulder with them in their struggle against the bellicose U.S. imperialist aggressors.

(*Continued page 7*)

Vietnam Organizations Support the Just Struggle of the Arab Peoples'

OF late the delegations of the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the Asian-African peoples, of the Vietnam Women's Union, of the Vietnam Lawyers' Association and Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, went to the Embassy of the United Arab Republic in Hanoi to express to the Vietnamese people's solidarity and support to the just struggle waged by the U.A.R. and other Arab countries against the Israeli reactionary authorities, stooges of the U.S. and British imperialists.

Mr. Ahmed Fonad Abon Sabai, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the U.A.R. thanked the Vietnamese people for their support to the struggle of the Arab peoples and voiced the latter's will to make common cause with the Vietnamese people in the struggle against the common enemy—U.S. imperialism.

N.F.L. FULLY SIDES WITH ARAB PEOPLES

CARRYING out the schemes of imperialism headed by the U.S., the Israeli reactionaries equipped and protected by the U.S. and British imperialists, on June 5, 1967 launched an aggression war against the territory of the United Arab Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan. The South Vietnamese people side with the Arab peoples.

On June 9, 1967, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, sent a message to President Nasser of the U.A.R. and President Atassi of the A.R. of Syria asserting that the South Vietnamese people is to fully support the just struggle of the Arab peoples to defend the independence and sovereignty of their countries and peace in the Middle East.

On June 12, 1967 the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation issued a statement condemning the warlike and aggressive acts of the U.S. and British imperialists and the Israeli reactionaries, and reiterating the South Vietnamese people's sympathy with the Arab peoples. The statement also pointed out that for their part, the South Vietnamese people and armed forces are determined to deal the U.S. imperialists heavy blows, thus making an active contribution to the struggle of the brother Arab peoples.

FOR ALL ITS TRANSIENT DIFFICULTIES, THE ARAB PEOPLES' JUST STRUGGLE WILL BE VICTORIOUS

THE world's peoples have just witnessed a naked aggression by Israeli reactionaries, assisted and instigated by the U.S. and British imperialists against the Arab countries in the Middle East.

The Middle East is an explosive region because it is torn by many contradictions. The main and sharpest antagonism opposes the ever developing struggle of the Arab people to win and consolidate national independence, U.S.-led imperialism which is bent on maintaining its sordid exploitation, especially with regard to oil, and extending its foothold in this strategic position of first importance, to realize its aggressive designs against the socialist countries and dominate the world. Since the end of World War II, they have made use of the rulers of Israel, a country bordering on the Arab states, as tools against the latter. To enable Israel to play its role as a shock force, the American and British imperialists have painstakingly organized and trained its armed forces into a professional aggressive army and equipped it with modern weapons. Over the last 19 years, Israel has unleashed 3 wars of aggression against the Arab countries (1948, 1956 and 1967) ; furthermore, she has constantly undertaken acts of provocation, sabotage and war against these countries. Since April this year, she has carried out serious acts of war provocation against Syria to overthrow its government. At the end of May, under the pretext that the U.A.R. had exercised its sovereignty over the Gulf of Aqaba, Israel made active preparations for war, and on June 5 launched an aggression against the U.A.R., and the Arab Republic of Syria.

U.S. rulers claimed that in the war between Israel and the Arab countries, their own position "is neutral in thought, word and deed". Through a wealth of facts, the people of the Arab countries, as well as those in other parts of the world see clearly that the imperialists, especially the U.S. imperialists, are the commanders of Israeli reactionaries. The Arab people are deeply aware that their struggle against Israel over the past 20 years has essentially been a struggle against imperialism. As previously, this time, U.S.-British hand in Israeli aggression against the Arab countries has been transparent. While Israel was preparing for war by setting up of a war cabinet, the U.S. rushed its 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean to the Middle East. On May 25, Israeli Foreign Minister left for the U.S. On the same day, the U.S. Administration put forward a 5-point plan, demanding that the "U.N. Emergency Force" be allowed to continue its occupation of the Gaza strip and Sharm El Sheikh area of U.A.R. territory, that the U.A.R. renounce its sovereignty over the Gulf of Aqaba, that she refrain from entering Gaza and place this strip under U.N. administration and that U.A.R. troops be withdrawn from their Sinai Peninsula. Later, President Johnson flew to Canada for a meeting with Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson and held talks with British Prime Minister Harold Wilson in Washington about an aid-Israeli plan. After the

(*Continued page 7*)

News from LAOS

About 900 Enemy Troops Wiped Out at Phong-saly, Xieng Khoang, Sam Neua and Kammon

ACCORDING to *Pathet Lao Radio*, in May 1967 the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys launched many mopping up operations and nibbling attacks against the liberated areas of Xieng Khouang, Sam Neua and Kammon, but they met with an energetic and strong riposte from the local armed forces and people.

Still incomplete figures show that 295 enemy troops were wiped out, including 147 killed, 34 weapons of various calibres collected, and 3 villages freed from the enemy's grip.

The same radio has also disclosed that during the first five months of this year, the Phongsaly armed forces and people had fought 77 engagements, killed 421 enemies and wounded 161, seized 129 firearms of various calibres and a big amount of military equipment, and downed 3 U.S. planes.

Valiant Haiphong Determined to Win Victory

UNDAUNTED BATTERY 5

AFTER two fierce battles against the U.S. marauding aircraft, Battery 5 of section X of an A-A unit in Haiphong drew on the wall of its fortification two bold lines marking two victories.

Battery 5 is named the "Young Battery" because its members are young in life as well as in the army. With 19 or 20 years of age, with their flourishing health and their revolutionary ardour, the fighters of Battery 5 have more than once greatly frightened the enemy.

These young men coming from all direction of the country live together like brothers of the same family. They grow up in harmony with their unit. After every battle, they are sealed more closely by the comradeship and friendship. They grow stronger with their improved technique, and their hatred for the enemy has been deepened.

During the recent battle, when Le Tien Truyen, the reconnaissance platoon commander, spotted the target, all fighters of Battery 5 were already on their positions, ready to fire off. But they had a worry: would the fighting power of the unit be hampered by the absence of its commander Vu Viet Tam. This found a prompt answer when the commanding pennon was fluttering down in the hands of To Van Dai, accompanied with the shout "Fire".

Our guns rumbled while scores of U.S. aircraft madly flew overhead. With imperturbable calmness, gunner No 5 Do Van Ha fed his piece, eyes starring at the enemy aircraft circling flew over the area. "Let they come!" he grumbled.

Phuoc, 19, gunner No 2, a painstaking man, does press the trigger only when he finds it is timely and sure of his shots. In these moments, nobody could distinguish his own fire from that of the friendly units. The whole city was sending off an intense network of fire, the guns of Battery 5 shook the town with their continued shots. Their camouflaging leaves eddied under the explosions.

Suddenly, a burst literally shook the plateform of the gunners. The battery ground was hit. As swift as a lightning, Do Van Hop rushed upon the breech-loader. Bombs were rained on the town, displaying in the eyes of the gunners the abominable crimes of the aggressors. Ha, a young worker recruited less than a year ago, was determined like his mates to defend his weapons. One side of the fortification was hit, but the gunners remained as firm as rocks while the breech-loader was intact and the artillery piece continued to pound the enemy with accurate fire.

Behind the clouds of smoke and dust, the gunners continued to follow with their penetrating eyes the perfidious flights of the enemy aircraft. Although their fortification was damaged, the gunners carried on their fight, strong with the remembrance of the examples of our Army Heroes Phan Dinh Giot, Nguyen Viet Xuan, Cu Chinh Lan, Nguyen Van Be and others.

Despite fierce bombings, Battery 5—the "Young battery"—continued uninterruptedly the battle with calmess and accuracy. Many American air marauders were brought down in the gunners' eyes. In co-ordination with the whole city, Battery 5 has engaged the enemy in many splendid battles after each of which it turned out to strengthen the fortification, ready for further engagements.

NORTH VIETNAM

Up to June 15, 1967

2,029 U.S. Planes Were Downed

(800 in the 4th Military Zone)

— May 1967: *148 U.S. planes downed, many American airmen killed or captured including a colonel and 3 lieutenant-colonels.*
17 war vessels sunk or damaged.

— June 10, 1967: *4 planes downed, many American airmen killed or captured in Hanoi.*

— June 11, 1967: *7 planes downed and many others damaged in Hanoi, Quang Binh, Ha Bac, Lang Son.*

— June 14, 1967: *2 U.S. war vessels set afire in Quang Binh.*

Up to June 15, 1967: 2,029 U.S. planes were downed (800 in the 4th military zone).

ABOVE THE 17th PARALLEL

We give below large extracts from a report by Doctor J.M. Krivine, assistant house-surgeon at the Laborisiere hospital in Paris, following a visit to the 17th parallel.

The report, which describes the life of our compatriots in Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Vinh Linh provinces, subjected to incessant attacks by American aircraft and warships, was published in the French paper Le Monde, *issue of April* 13-19-1967.

Editor

WE again straddled our bikes and headed for the Ha Tinh provincial hospital. Everything had been razed to the ground. We saw only bomb craters, broken bricks and tiles and a few bits of walls. This modern 300-bed establishment had disappeared in 1965 under the bombs dropped in the course of 18 attacks, said my guides. Very calm, Dr. Thien said that the nine hospitals of the provinces had been destroyed, and yet they were now functioning with regular staffs in remote place. In fact, I was to visit such dispersed establishments.

Here were some more devastated areas. Of the third-level (senior secondary) school, a big brick building for 1,500 students, only bits of walls remained. To its right had stood a teachers' training college : it had totally disappeared.

... Several huts had been burnt by napalm, of which traces could be seen in the fields.

We were to stay several days in Quang Binh province, one of the hardest hit, for the 17th parallel was not far away. There were repeated raids by aircraft, bombardments by the Seventh Fleet, and when we went down towards Vinh Linh, shellings by artillery. But everywhere I stopped (many such places were not in our travel plan) I saw peasants working in the fields, fishermen going to sea, children to school, the medical service showing surprising efficiency, and people with smiles on their lips.

Thus we visited a fishermen's village which had been repeatedly attacked with the most various arms, of which I was able to see traces : explosive bombs, steel pellet bombs, 20-mm cannon shells, napalm. Everything had been destroyed and burnt down, but the people had built huts that were lower than the former ones and linked to shelter-trenches, and nobody had left the region. From the shore, we saw a vessel of the Seventh Fleet. Overhead, a recon plane hovered. Divided into small groups, and availing ourselves of the protection afforded by incompletely burnt trees, we were able to visit the village.

Under a palm-leaf roof, protected by a small wall, forty school-children listened to their teacher. When we entered the classroom, an eight-year-old girl shouted an order and the whole class began singing a patriotic song, clapping their hands rhythmically. Then, during the break, the children played games, in good discipline, as if they were going to the shelters.

To get into the village pharmacy, which was underground, we had to go on all fours. Inside, a girl in a white overall was working. She had followed a six-month training course and had been here since April 1966. She did not intend to leave the village. On three wooden boards she had ranged her products, whose variety was surprising : anti-biotics, antalgics, anti-diarhoeaics, drugs made from medicinal plants. "We don't put everything we have here," she said. "Our stock is dispersed in several places. Besides, there are two hamlet pharmacies, with one woman assistant in each."

The village infirmary was also underground, but it was more spacious, with two wooden beds, a chest, a table and a chair. The nurse-midwife, who was twenty and had been trained in nine months, did not intend to leave the village either. She explained the way in which she treated people suffering from burns and shock. Her competence could not be denied, as well as her quick-mindedness and sense of responsibility. With three other nurses, she worked under the guidance of an assistant doctor. All told, in its various shelters, the infirmary had eighteen beds. The example of this coastal village was not unique. I was able to verify that each village possessed a health centre directed by one or two assistant-doctors, who had received three years' training and were aided by four or five nurses.

THE road leading to Vinh Linh was muddy. Fortunately, the "shock brigades" entrusted with the maintenance of communication lines, had planted white stakes on both sides so the driver could see his way. All roads were beaconed in this way with stakes that

(Continued page 7)

Roads are mended by airplane carcasses

Irrigation work is going on normally

IN THE WESTERN HIGH PLATEAUX
A BAD DRY SEASON FOR THE AMERICAN TROOPS

AT present, while trying to extricate themselves from their fix in Quang Tri province close to the 17th parallel and other provinces bordering on it to the south, the U.S. military command and the Saigon puppets are very anxious for their gloomy prospects in the Western High Plateaux in Central Vietnam. They are anticipating the eventuality of the Liberation Armed Forces' significant attacks in the coming Summer and Winter, as sequel to the repeated failures of the U.S. expeditionary corps and the puppet army, the background of which can be outlined as follows :

TWO TACTICS : "SEARCH AND DESTROY" AND TO LURE THE ENEMY INTO ONE'S BASE TO WIPE HIM

THE concentration of a sizable force of American and puppet troops in the Western High Plateaux brings out the strategic importance of this region and also the ambition of the Westmoreland command staff. There the U.S. mustered two regiments of "civil guards" and "militia" and 45 companies of puppet commandos under direct U.S. command, an American division-sized force comprising two brigades of Infantry Division 4 and Brigade 3 of Division 25. This force received timely support from the 1st Air Cavalry Mobile Division in An Khe, Air-Borne Brigade 101 in Phan Rang and three battalions of puppet rangers. The U.S. commanders claimed that they would destroy the bases of the Liberation Army, "search and destroy" its main force or at least would flush it out so that they might carry out the "pacification" program and establish their control over the population, hence to take hold completely of this strategic highland region.

As for the Liberation Army, after a fighting season in Summer 1966 it had gathered enough experience and had quickly matured. It was determined to foil the Pentagon's plan.

A bitter contest took place in the Western High Plateaux between the two tactics : U.S. "search and destroy" tactics and the L.A.F. "lure the enemy deeper and deeper into its bases to wipe him out" tactics.

On October 16, 1966 the people's armed forces began to encircle Plei Trang, an important enemy position 40km north-west of Pleiku town, defended by seven commando companies.

On October 20 the U.S. landed two American and commando battalions north of the Poco river and two other battalions west and south of this river to secure a springboard for deep thrusts into the rear base of the Liberation Army. From October 25, they made probing attacks involving each a company in the direction of the east of Sa Thay river with the intention to find out the L.A.F. and call in aircraft or a big force to wipe them out. While the enemy was vainly searching for the Liberation Army, on the night of October 28 the latter simultaneously attacked three positions of the U.S., putting out of action two companies and one platoon of adverse troops. The enemy had to huddle into two clusters consisting of two reinforced battalions statipned east of the Sa Thay river in order to avoid further losses. However, on November 5, an enemy company which ventured out to the west was immediately wiped out.

On November 7, with the intention to push deeper into the liberated zone to take a big toll of the Liberation forces, a battalion of Brigade 2 of the 1st Air Cavalry Division was helilifted to Ca Dinh area to block the escape road to the North while a unit of puppet commandos was sent from Dac Co to link up with the U.S. unit. From Ca Dinh, puppet commandos crossed Sa Thay river to "entice" the Liberation forces out for the U.S. troops to strike at.

On November 9, two companies of this commando unit were wiped out and another company trounced in an encounter with the L.A.F. The U.S. commanders immediately dispached a large force to the West of Sa Thay river in an attempt to wipe out the adversary. Two American battalions, a puppet company and an artillery company thus formed a pincer north and south of a base where U.S. troops were positioned not long before. However, before the U.S. and puppets could go into action, on November 12 after violent artillery barrages the L.A.F. assaulted this position in several waves, completely putting out of action a U.S. battalion and an artillery company belonging to Brigade 2, of Division 4. The puppet company which accompanied the U.S. troops also shared the same fate.

B.52 bombers made hundreds of sorties to "saturate" the area daily, yet they could not save Battalion 1 of Brigade 3, Division 25, stationed west of Sa Thay river. On November 13 and 19, all its three companies were put out of action one after another showing surprise attacks by the L.A.F. soon after they came out of their fortifications.

After the two battalions on the banks of Sa Thay river had been put out of action, the U.S. command in Saigon sent Brigade 2, of the Air Cavalry Division to Pleiku and the Air-Borne Brigade 101 to Kontum to forestall a

(Continued page 6)

Supply to the front

IN CLOSE-RANGE FIGHTING

by the Quang Tri-based correspondent of G.P.X. (Liberation Press Agency)

L.A.F. section leader Nguyen Van Sau went inspecting each weapon pit. He tested every gun-sight and recommanded his men to hold firm to their combat post and to open fire only when the enemy came at close quarters. He told machine-gunner Dao Xuan Nho, "Today, we'll have our full day. Make good your preparations and force the Yanks to bite the dust by the hundred".

After making the last inspection of the section's formation, Sau, simulating a G.I., approached the position from the outer perimeter so that his men could re-adjust their gun-sight and improve their weapon pits. Back among his men, Sau reminded them, "Wait until they come close and open fire only when the targets show".

Suddenly gun shots were heard from the left side. The section nearby already picked up battle. Sau jumped into the trench. His section awaited the enemy in silence, a silence presaging the imminent doom of the aggressors. They did come! The tall G.I.'s in their camouflaged uniforms, with guns pressed against their sides, were moving towards the muzzles of the guns of his section.

"Fire now?" gunner Dao Xuan Nho asked Sau in a low voice.

"Not yet! Wait until I open up then you all sweep your fire".

The aggressors came closer and closer. They walked abreast, bare-cheated, jostling one another. Sau opened the first shot, followed by bursts of fire from all types of weapons. Nearly 20 Americans fell. There was no survivor. The rear detachment crouched low and yelled. Enemy artillery shells thumped into the L.A.F. positions. Some armed helicopters released their rockets and fired 20-mm guns on tree lines suspected to be covering the Liberation fighters.

In the trench, Sau commended the gunners for their successes and reminded them to save ordnance and to be prepared for long and continued fighting.

With artillery support, the Americans moved again to the right side. From afar, they began pouring fire into the L.A.F. positions. Our fighters remained still, waiting.

Seeing that the L.A.F. did not return the fire, they began advancing. Sau told his men to hold their fire. A group of 5 G.I.'s with red caps on, groped their way in and now came into Sau's gunsight. He released one burst of fire with his sub machinegun at the three Yanks in the lead. All three fell. The two others were wiped out by Dai before they could run away.

From the rear, the enemy released thick walls of black smoke and two double-rotor helicopters appeared. Sau told his men, "they are bringing more troops behind that smokescreen. Repair and improve your fortifications, quick! Stand ready for new combats!"

As predicted by Sau, the aggressors rushed forward like swarms of moths around a candle flame. The enemy brought up a heavy machine-gun which streamed out long volleys while advancing. Sau jumped out of the trench, skirted along it and tossed two hand-grenades which immediately silenced the enemy machinegun. His munitions were nearly exhausted. He ordered to gather all grenades available. Each time Nho's machine gun fire pressed the enemy down, Sau moved out along the jungle path and used grenades to finish off the remainder. The enemy now spotted Sau, and an intense fire was poured at him. As quick as flash, he rolled himself down by the side of the pathway and moved in another direction. A mortar unit just brought up by the enemy was wiped out immediately. At that momen, Dai was wounded, undoubtedly by an enemy heavy machine gun sited 40 metres away. After bandaging Dai's wound, Sau got back to the battle scene. He destroyed the enemy machine gun with a hand grenade, killing two Yanks. Moments later, four other Yanks were seen in a thicket. Sau opened up and killed two of them. In co-ordination with Sau's section, the local guerillas, with their steady and violent fire, took further enemy casualties.

By his courage and staunchness, that day Sau skilfully commanded his section and harmoniously coordinated with the local guerillas, succeeding in breaking up six waves of attacks by nearly one U.S. battalion, putting 180 attackers out of action. Sau alone took 41 American casualties, winning the title of "Distinguished Intrepid Fighter against Yanks."

His greatest honour was that he was admitted to the People's Revolutionary Party right on the battlefield.

THE WHOLE WORLD HAILS THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S BRILLIANT VICTORIES

P.R. OF CHINA

PREMIER Chou En-lai on June 12 sent a telegram to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam N.F.L., extending warmest congratulations to the South Vietnamese people on the defeat of U.S. imperialism's second "dry-season counter-offensive". The telegram reads:

"Through developing the infinite power of people's war to new heights in their battles in Winter-Spring of 1966-1967, the heroic South Vietnamese people have defeated U.S. imperialism's second "dry-season counter-offensive" and wiped out large numbers of effectives of the U.S.-aggressor forces, inflicting upon the enemy unprecedented disastrous defeat. This is a great victory with important strategic significance. On behalf of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Vice-Chairman Lin Piao and the Chinese people, I extend our warmest congratulations to you and to the entire South Vietnamese people".

U.S.S.R.

UNDER the title "Miscalculations of the Pentagon", the Soviet paper, *Pravda*, on June 8, 1967 wrote:

"The Pentagon believes that by waging an air war of destruction against the D.R.V., it can avert failure in South Vietnam.

"The U.S. Command has hurled the best units of the U.S. air force comprising about one-third of U.S. jet planes in the Pacific. U.S. aircraft of 42 types taking off from Thailand, South Vietnam and the 7th Fleet have made 300 sorties daily against North Vietnam.

"However, the strategic aims of the bombing of North Vietnam are far from being attained. This has been acknowledged by American officials themselves, including Defence Secretary McNamara.

"In the air war against the D.R.V., the U.S. air force has suffered heavy losses which are unexpected to the organizers of this adventure. It is now quite clear that the U.S. militarists have miscalculated".

D.P.R. OF KOREA

GENERAL Kim Chang Bong's message said:

"The Vietnamese people and the Vietnam People's Army fighters have smashed to pieces U. S. imperialism's technical superiority" and foiled the enemy's scheme of war expansion in Vietnam.

"This well-deserved counter-blow dealt at the U.S. aggressors who are taking criminal acts by barbarously bombing the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has brought out the indomitable will and the fighting strength of the Vietnamese people. The fighters of the Korean People's Army are highly elated at the victories recorded by the fighters of the Vietnam People's Army in their resistance to the common enemy — U.S. imperialism — and consider these victories as their own. They will at the same time do all they can to assist the fraternal Vietnamese people".

CUBA

THE National Directorate of the Cuban Committee in Defence of the Revolution launched an emulation drive called "Week of the downing of the 2,000th plane" throughout the country to learn from the fighting spirit of the Vietnamese people and at the same time to step up the emulation movement in all aspects. According to preliminary reports, in the first few days of this emulation week, Committees in Defence of the Revolution at all levels in Havana organized 500 meetings to greet the victories of the Vietnamese people. Sixty more of such committees have won the emulation title "Committee of Vietnamese guerillas" instituted by the National Directorate.

In many parts of the country, the people burned models of planes symbolizing the 2,000 U.S. planes downed and effigies of US. air pirates.

G.D.R.

THE *Berliner Zeitung* on June 9, 1967 commented:

"The Vietnamese armed forces and people have brought down the 2,000th U.S. pirate plane. This figure tells of their courage, their sound military knowledge, their combat preparedness and the degree of modernization of their military equipment. The downed planes included the most modern now being used by the U.S. air force."

LAOS

THE message from the Supreme Command of the Lao People's Liberation Army to the High Command of the Vietnam People's Army says:

"The great victories won in last Winter and Spring by the South Vietnam L.A.F. and the glorious exploit of the North Vietnamese armed forces and people in shooting down the 2,000th U.S. plane proved the close and splendid co ordination in fighting of the armed forces and people in both zones and at the same time expressed their rock-firm determination in their fight against U.S. aggression for national salvation, to defend the North, liberate the South and advance towards national reunification.

The glorious feat of arms of the North Vietnamese armed forces and people is a heavy blow dealt to the U.S. war of destruction and sets a bright example which mobilizes and encourages the anti-imperialist spirit of all nations and peace lovers around the world.

D.R.V. EDUCATION...

(Continued from page 2

labour teams, hundreds of efficient teachers, millions of Uncle Ho's good nephews and nieces, including about 2,000 excellent pupils commended by Uncle Ho.

The third achievement is that in spite of growing enemy attacks the service has ensured safety for both teachers and pupils. Some schools have been attacked scores of times, but no casualty has been recorded owing to good air defence protection. Of course, all this is not to alleviate the heinous crimes committed by the American imperialists who have relentlessly attacked D.R.V. schools, causing many difficulties to the teachers and learners.

The above mentioned achievements have a very great significance. They symbolize the iron will of the educational branch; "determined to fight the American aggressors."

These successes account for the ardour to teach of the teachers and for the zeal to study of 4 or 5 million pupils. Credit of these also goes to the great contribution of the Vietnamese people traditionally devoted to study. But the decisive factor of these meritorious deeds is undoubtedly the correct line of the Vietnam Workers' Party and the D.R.V. Government in education.

Following up its past experiences, the educational service will certainly fulfil it glorious task, thus contributing an active part to the struggle against U.S. aggression, for the liberation of South Vietnam and the building of socialism.

IN THE WESTERN HIGH PLATEAUX...

(Continued from page 5)

possible direct assault of the L.A.F. on their headquarters in Kontum. A puppet battalion, Brigade 2 of the Air Cavalry Division, two battalions of Division 4 together with two artillery companies were landed south of Ca Din. On the afternoon of November 6 the L.A.F. attacked immediately a detachment of Brigade 2 after it touched down. The commanding company, an infantry company and an artillery company composed of four 105mm howitzers were made short and neat work of Brigade 2 of Infantry Division 4, which completely lost its combat capacity.

UPI bitterly admitted that U.S. Infantery Division 4, which had been only two months in Vietnam and had little combat experience was heavily punished by the battle-hardened "Viet Cong" troops.

From October 26 to December 6 the Liberation Armed Forces on the Western High Plateaux put out of action 2,500 enemy troops including 2,100 Americans. The enemy casualties included 2 battalions and 8 infantry companies, 4 companies and 3 platoons of U.S. artillery and 5 puppet commando companies. Another U.S. battalion was heavily depleted. The L.A.F. destroyed 24 artillery pieces and shot down 21 U.S. planes...

It is clear that the U.S. military command has failed to achieve its tactical objective in its "search and destroy" operations. The L.A.F. gained the initiative of action right at the outset, lured the enemy deeper and deeper into their bases to wipe out a major part of his manpower. On the other hand, they attracted a sizable force of the U.S. to the western High Plateaux to attack them in a co-ordinated action with activities of the Liberation forces on the other battlefields.

FRUSTRATING U.S. INTENTION TO APPLY THE TACTICS OF SMALL DEFENCE

DRAWING lessons from the failures in the early period, the Westmoreland command again threw Brigade 2 of Division 4 into the Sa Thay area after replenishing and reinforcing it; this was part of the U.S. plan of "small defence" which consists, in building an enclave to interdict the supply route of the L.A.F. and search and destroy part of them. But hardly had Brigade 2 completed its fortifications when the L.A.F. launched on February 15 simultaneous attacks both east and west of Sa Thay river, wiping out two companies and badly mauling two other companies of U.S. troops. The newly arrived elements of Division 4 found their strength on the downgrade. "Flying horseman" and paratroopers were brought in to reinforce the garrison. But on March 3, no sooner had a battation of the Air Cavalry Division arrived in Sa thay than two of its companies took a sound beating, with 180 killed or wounded. On March 12, three companies of Airborne Brigade 101 were wiped out or decimated also east of Sa Thay river.

Along with attacking the enemy front, the Liberation forces mounted violent attacks on its rear. On March 13 they assaulted an encampment and the Command post of Brigade 2 of Division 4 in Sung Thien, killing or wounding 500 enemy troops including 345 GI's, destroying 15 aircraft and 8 artillery pieces...

Meanwhile, the L.A.F. in other places of the Western High Plateaux also launched co-ordinated attacks on the enemy such as the annihilation of a commando company at Quyin Son 7km north west of Plei Me (Feb. 18) and the ambush 32km northeast of Ban Me Thuot town in which almost a whole battalion of Puppet Regiment 45 was wiped out.

Repeatedly beaten on the front and meeting with serious trouble in the rear, the U.S. troops on March 18 began to beat retreat from Sa Thay. Immediately the L.A.F. crossed Sa Thay and Poco rivers to pursue them and inflict more losses on them. By March 28 not a single U.S. soldier was seen in the Sa Thay area. The aggressors had abandoned even their key position at Sung Thien and withdrew to the east and the south.

From February 15 to March 31, 4,000 enemy troops were put out of action, among them 2,900 Americans. A battalion, 12 companies and 2 platoons of the U.S. and puppets were knocked out, many other units suffered heavy casualties. The L.A.F. destroyed or damaged 18 artillery pieces, 105 military vehicles, shot down or destroyed 54 planes or helicopters.

The big U.S. setbacks in the Western High Plateaux during the past dry season were the failures of a new tactics which have led the U.S. to greater passivity and perplexity on the South Vietnam battlefield. The developments on the Western High Plateaux theatre threw light on the quick growth of the Liberation Armed Forces and their full capacity to take the initiative of action and defeat the enemy in any situation.

The "Pacification" Prong...

(Continued from page 8)

in Quang Tri, Thua Thien and the Mekong delta. The puppet troops were wholly impotent to provide "security for the pacification teams." The latter's wicked adventures were duly punished. The *New York Herald Tribune* admitted that the black-clad "pacification" personnel were repeatedly eliminated: 298 "revolutionary development" teams attacked during the first quarter of this year, as against 30 attacks for the same period last year. *U.S. News and World Report* also complained that many "pacification" teams failed to meet the Americans' expectations: no sooner did the semi-regular forces prove unable or unwilling to protect them against the guerillas' pressure than they just vanished into thin air.

The American imperialists have thus failed in their "pacification" scheme. For the harder they try to "pacify", the bitter the antagonism more between them and the Vietnam people become. The aggressors can only rely on the traitors to achieve their ends. To push forward "rural pacification", the Americans have had to revive the landlords and local bullies. Their "land reform" means to rob the peasants of their lands and give them to the landlords. The *Washington Evening Star* of April 3 reported that landlords who had left their estates for the cities and who were now returning with the "pacification" forces not only sought to wrest back their lands but also to force the peasants to pay rent arrears for the periods during which they, the landlords, had fled the Viet Cong. The French paper *Le Monde* wrote: "Savage destruction has reduced to nought any political results which might have been achieved".

The "pacification" plan of the American imperialists has thus been shattered to pieces.

DEVELOPING THE GLORIOUS SUCCESSES...

(Continued from page 8)

troops, among them 450 members of the U.S 9th Infantry Division, shooting down or destroying 6 aircraft and sinking 10 war vessels.

This operation involved a dozen U.S.-puppet battalions supported by 50 armoured cars, 20 heavy guns and numerous aircrafts and combat launches. Its objective was to pat into operation a "pacification" plan. The enemy troops however, were violently attacked everywhere by the regional forces.

PHU YEN: HUNDREDS OF PAK JUNG (HI MER-CENARIES WIPED OUT.

ACCORDING to *G.P.V.* (Liberation Press Agency) on May 7, 10, 11 and 16, the L.A.F. inflicted heavy losses on the Pak Jung Hi mercenary troops.

On May 11, they attacked the enemy post at Binh Trang, Tuy An district, wiping out more than 150 of the defenders and destroying a large quantity of arms and munitions (including 2 75-mm cannons and one 81-mm mortar).

On May 10 and 11, the guerillas and regional forces of Xuan Phuoc Dong Xuan district) violently engaged enemy commandos, killing or capturing nearly 300 of them including Pak Jung Hi mercenaries, civil guards and puppet "pacification" cadres.

At An Linh, the L.A.F. on May 16 killed over 80 Pak Jung Hi troops on a looting operation.

QUANG TRI: 200 ENEMY TROOPS WIPED OUT

ON the afternoon of June 2, the L.A.F. violently intercepted the enemy troops on a looting operation at An Lau, 8km northeast of Quang Tri provincial capital, inflicting serious losses on the puppet 3rd Air Borne Battalion and wiping out more than 200 enemy troops among them 4 field officers.

Meanwhile, the guerillas of Hai Lang district killed 30 enemy troops and wounded many others as they were raiding a number of hamlets of Hai Kinh village.

TAN AN: MORE THAN 300 ENEMIES WIPED OUT IN THE HEART OF THE TOWN

ON June, at 23.37 hours, the L.A.F. simultaneously attacked several enemy positions in the very heart of Tan An provincial capital. After only 3 minutes' fighting, the L.A.F. wiped out a platoon of 75-mm guns and 12 mortars and magazines and seized 2 tanks. Using guns on these tanks, they fired violently at the enemy positions, raining on the ground a military training centre, putting out of action one platoon of civil guards and nearly 200 crack U.S. agents, including many "pacification" cadres.

Meanwhile, the L.A.F. made a powerful assault on an enemy post defending an 155-mm artillery emplacement and a commando company, killing over 100 enemies.

ABOVE THE 17th PARALLEL...

(Continued from page 4)

were repainted each day if it rained. Young girls responsible for this work were there: their job was to keep every road open and apt to be used by a sturdy vehicle driving with all lights out. During the whole of my stay, I was never stopped by a damaged road or a destroyed bridge. Sometimes, we spent ten hours covering 100 kilometres. Potholes might be impressive, but we passed none the less...

The hospital was entirely destroyed. Big puddles of napalm lay around the red crosses of the entrance gate. Already, at Dong Hoi, in Quang Binh province, I had seen a similar sight. A doctor who accompanied me told me that the hospital, which had 250 beds and was completely isolated in the plain, had been attacked eleven times in 1965. From this heap of ruins, I picked up a tile which had covered the wall of the operating-room: unburnt napalm still stuck to it.

An extraordinary fact for the foreign visitor was that the people seemed to go about their business as usual. Production was thought at least as important as anti-aircraft defence, and the co-operative, which had reaped 5 tons of rice per hectare, was as proud of this success as of the achievements of its militiamen, who had shot down enemy planes. The slogan "to stick to bomb craters and produce" was taken so seriously that I saw old craters, on whose edges vegetation had grown turned into ponds. Now old breeding (3,000-lb. bombs, currently used, dig craters 28 metres across and 8-10 metres deep).

This calm, this will to live and win, these treasures of ingenuity... all this leaves one flabbergasted. How could anyone in Paris imagine that a belly could be correctly operated on in a shelter in the light of a bicycle head light, that while a hundred houses of a village had been burnt down, only four of its inhabitants had been killed, that a centrifugal machine could be made to revolve at 2,400 r.p.m. by rubbing it against a bicycle wheel, that heavy lorries could cross rivers on bamboo bridges built in a night, that malaria, cholera, trachoma, and illiteracy could be liquidated!...

FOR ALL ITS TRANSIENT DIFFICULTIES...

(Continued from page 3)

aggression started, the U.S. and British brazenly gave air cover to Israeli bombing and troop invasion of the Arab countries.

It was because the Arab people had realized the very wicked and perfidious nature of the U.S. and British imperialists that while the armed forces of the Arab countries were valiantly fighting against Israeli aggressive troops, in all the Arab and many other countries, popular feeling against the U.S. ran high. Demonstrating Arabs ransacked U.S. Embassies, tore U.S. flags and shouted, "Down with U.S. imperialism!", "Hang Johnson" and "U.S. quit Arab countries!". The Arab countries decided to discontinue oil supplies to the U.S. Many of these countries severed diplomatic relations with the U.S. Along with the world-wide movement against U.S. aggression in Vietnam, the anti-U.S. campaign in the Arab countries came as a powerful political blow to the U.S. aggressors and war makers. This proves that all U.S. crafty manoeuvres no longer work and that people around the world feel deep hatred for U.S. imperialism and resolutely oppose it.

Besides long-term favourable conditions, the Arab people's recent fight against the Israeli aggressors, has met with some immediate, unfavourable conditions. Assisted by the U.S. imperialists, the Israeli aggressors, after having made adequate preparations, threw the full weight of their armed forces into a swift and surprise attack, while the Arab countries were not yet fully prepared, and therefore had to accept the cease-fire. The Israeli reactionaries, given an inch, want to take an ell. They are outforward insolent demands to the Arab countries. The Johnson Administration has also set up a so-called "special committee" composed of such notorious aggressors as Dean Rusk and McNamara to keep an eye on, and settle, problems in the Middle East, or to put it bluntly, to find ways and means to increase U.S. influence in this area.

The struggle of the Arab people is facing temporary difficulties and setbacks. Their recent fighting is but one step in their long struggle for the complete abolition of neo-colonialism in the Middle East. This struggle, like that of other peoples, has twists and turns and is a hard struggle, because the imperialists are still strong and very cruel, adventurous and crafty. But, in spite of ups and downs, the path of struggle of the Arab and other peoples follows an uptrend course. Although the U.S. imperialists and their Israeli stooges have made some temporary gains in the Middle East, yet this can by no means obliterate the main contradictions in this region. The struggle of the Arab people is a just struggle which keeps pace with the march of history. The main and other contradictions have not abated at all, instead have become aggravated. Following the recent fighting, two important factors have emerged from the national liberation movement of the Arab people: these people are more and more taking the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle in hands and Arab unity against imperialism is being ever more strengthened. These factors will have a far-reaching impact and help build up the great strength of the Arab people. By drawing experience at the cost of their blood from decades of struggle, always relying mainly on their own resources, and keeping a keen eye on imperialism, the people of the Arab countries will certainly surmount the present difficulties and win victory in the coming moves. The socialist countries are dutybound to support the struggle of the Arab people. The latter are also receiving sympathy and broad support from the people all over the world. Their struggle is being waged in very favourable conditions. Though arrogant, the imperialists are weakening and disintegrating.

The U.S. imperialists are getting bogged neck-deep in the Vietnam quagmire and their utter failure is a foregone conclusion.

The Vietnamese people have always followed with warm sympathy the just struggle of the Arab people. We indignantly and strongly condemn the U.S. and British imperialists for their assistance to the Israeli reactionaries in unleashing a war of aggression against the Arab countries. We resolutely demand that Israeli aggressor troops be brought home and that the U.S., Britain and Israel respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Arab countries.

Our people are firmly convinced that the great unity of nearly one hundred million Arab people who are resolved to keep up and step up their struggle, will finally prevail over the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys. The prospects for the anti-imperialist struggle of the Arab people are very bright. Their just cause will surely triumph.

VIETNAM — CAMBODIA...

(Continued from page 3)

The militant solidarity between Vietnam and Cambodia stems from the fact that the destinies of the two peoples are linked together, that both are struggling against imperialists aggression, for independence and freedom and for long to live side by side in friendship.

The Vietnamese people will do their best for the continuous development of the Vietnam — Cambodia friendship and the constant consolidation and broadening of the Indo-Chinese peoples' front.

There lies the great strength of the 40 million Indo-Chinese people, a firm guarantee for the final victory of the Indo-Chinese nations in their struggle against the U.S. warmongers and aggressors, for independence, freedom and territorial integrity.

Australian Satellite Troops Commit New Bloody Crimes in South Vietnam

ON May 30 and 31, the *BBC* and *AP* reported that aircraft of the Australian forces had dropped many toxic gas canisters on many areas of Ba Ria province (or Phuoc Tuy) to massacre the local people.

This savagery listed a new, bloody crime of the Australian mercenary troops against the South Vietnamese people. The use of toxic gas in war has been strongly condemned by world public opinion.

Like the U.S. aggressors, a spokesman for the Australian satellite troops tried to explain that the gas they had employed was "tear gas" and "non-lethal gas", and had only "temporary effects"... He had even the cheek to say that this crime "is a humane way of treating the Vietcong".

It is well known that besides sending mercenaries to take part in the aggression against South Vietnam, the Australian authorities have also dispatched an air squadron to bomb and strafe villages and hamlets there, and even sent a warship to shell North Vietnam's coastal areas. The use of toxic gas to massacre the South Vietnamese people is a crime committed in a systematic way by the Australian satellite troops.

The noxious substances they dropped recently on a number of villages of Ba Ria province were in fact toxic gases of the C.N., D.M. and C.S. categories which cause nausea, suffocation and lesions, and even loss of sight, paralysis and hemorrhage.

Reporting on their large-scale operation in Cu Chi in January 1966, *Reuter* acknowledged their use of lethal gas. According to this news agency, smoke and gas described as non-lethal and used against guerillas in their hide-outs killed an Australian sergeant and made 6 other soldiers to be hospitalized. Sergeant Bowtell, of Sydney, died of suffocation though gas-masked.

ERRATUM

In Vietnam Courier, issue N° 112 of May 29, 1967 page 5, column 3, line 14 "According to Reuter information" should be read "According to information ...."

IN THE WINTER-SPRING CAMPAIGN

FIASCO OF U.S. PACIFICATION POLICY

THE WHITE HOUSE'S SPECIAL EFFORTS

IN their plan for a "two-prong strategic counter-offensive" in the 1966-1967 dry season, the American aggressors laid special emphasis on the importance of the "pacification" prong. According to *AP* (Nov. 24,1966) the White House's experts are all of the opinion that the future of the war in Vietnam depends on the "sweep and hold" strategy and that "pacification" is the key to victory in South Vietnam. Important forces and much money were reserved for this prong of the American strategic counter-offensive on this second front.

With a twofold increase in the number of American expeditionary troops, compared with the previous dry season, Westmoreland and his Command hurled almost all puppet main force divisions into "pacification". To "pacify" key areas around their bases and the big cities, they also used American and satellite forces. "Pacification" personnel numbered 40,000 men. The police forces was strengthened by more than 20,000. If militia and civil guards are also taken into account, the American, puppet and satellite forces committed to this second "prong" were many times as numerous as those fielded in the previous dry season. There was an even more substantial increase in financial outlays nearly one billion dollars (60 billion Saigon piasters), four times as much in 1965-1966.

Pacification being considered one of the two prongs of his counter-offensive, Westmoreland took over direct command, so as to combine it with the "search and destroy" prong and squash the people of Vietnam in between.

The aim pursued was a formidable one indeed. The American plan was first to occupy some of the liberated areas, and herd as many people as possible into regions under their control. Through various tricks: "elections", "constitution", "rural reconstruction", etc., they would try to breathe new life into that corpse, the puppet administration, try to stabilize it, and build it into a prop for their expanding neo-colonialist war. On the other hand, the American aggressors would strike hard at the guerillas, try to build safe corridors linking their various bases, military posts, communication networks, and big cities, so as to secure a firm foothold from which the half a million American troops would fan out for successful "search and destroy" operations. With such tremendous efforts on the "other front", the Johnson gang hoped they could achieve some political success which, added to a few victories in "search and destroy" raids would lead to a favourable turning point in their war of aggression.

BITTER SETBACKS

THE dry season is now over. Both prongs of the American counter-offensive have been broken. While on the "search and destroy" front, American mobile units suffered heavy losses, on the "pacification" front, the puppet troops and political forces also got a sound beating. The American imperialists' "pacification" plan has come to grief.

Not only did they fail to occupy any liberated areas, but they also lost many of their former positions. The regions controlled by them have shrunk, particularly in Quang Tri and Thua Thien. *U.S. News and World Report* of March 23 made this bitter admission: the adversary still controls 80 per cent of the land, as much as he did a year ago. In areas under temporary American control, the various farces of "elections", "constitution" and "rural reconstruction" deceived no one. No prop could be set up in the countryside for the puppet administration. "Village headmen refused to stop overnight in their villages and pacification teams did likewise." American flunkeys jumped at each other's throat even more savagely than before, in "elections" and "constitution drafting". The "civilians" heaped abuses on the "military"; Thieu, Ky and their respective gangs sought to destroy each other, the immediate bone of contention being the "presidency", i.e. the position of chief running dog for the Americans. From top to bottom, the puppet regime not only was not stabilized in the least but was thrown into greater confusion.

The Americans and their flunkeys are thus powerless before the guerilla movement, which develops more strongly than ever. *UPI* recognizes that while the war with the Vietcong main force units has not abated in the least, that against the guerillas has greatly intensified. In *U.S. News and World Report* of May 22, General L. Walt, the marine commander, admitted that the war against the guerillas was now a tough job for the American forces. The South Vietnamese guerillas not only combined their actions with large-unit attacks by the Liberation troops and crushed all "search and destroy" operations by American mobile units, but also cut enemy communications to pieces, launched ceaseless attacks on both American and puppet positions, struck heavy blows at their already loftering rear. The American press repeatedly complained that security had greatly diminished for American air bases and supply depots, and that the Vietcong could hit wherever they pleased. The American mobile units' footholds having become shaky, their "search and destroy" operations only brought destruction upon themselves. The military setbacks they suffered in "pacification" were also extremely heavy.

A BLIND ALLEY

THE harder the Americans tried, the more pitifully they failed. Why? First, because their military actions, on which they relied, were all foiled. American troops could not raid the liberated areas. Even on battlefields where they had concentrated the greatest force and launched ceaseless attacks, for example in Tay Ninh and the Fifth Zone, they failed to annihilate the Liberation troops; on the contrary it was they who were crippled by their adversary's attacks. The puppet main forces, divided into smaller units and scattered, became even weaker in organization and morale. Not only did they fail to conduct any raids but whole battalions and companies were wiped out by the guerillas. This happened over and over again

(Continued page 6)

GPX's Declaration on U.S. and Quislings' "Handing Over of P.O.W.s"

GPX (Libertion Press Agency) issued a statement on the new "handing over of P.O.W.s" farce staged by the Yankees and their lackeys at Hien Luong bridge. The statement stressed: "This act is but a deceit of the old plot contrived by the Yankees and their lackeys with a view to covering up the barbarous and inhuman treatment meted out to the South Vietnamese patriots, hiding their heavy setbacks on all the South Vietnam battlefields and slandering North Vietnam as invading South Vietnam; this trick can deceive nobody."

DEVELOPING THE GLORIOUS SUCCESSES OF THE WINTER 1966—SPRING 1967 CAMPAIGN

⊙ QUANG NAM — DA NANG: Completely Foil Operation *Lien Ket*, Wiping Out 7,500 Enemies Including 5,295 GI's. ⊙ QUANG NGAI: Puts Out Of Action 1,860 Enemies. ⊙ MY THO: Foils "Pacification" Operation Launched By Over 10 Battalions: 900 Enemies Wiped Out, 6 Aircraft Downed Or Damaged, 10 War Vessels Sunk. ⊙ PHU YEN: Annihilates and Captures More Than 530 South Korean Mercenaries.

QUANG NAM — DA NANG BROKE UP OPERATION *LIEN KET*

FROM April 21 to June 5, 1967, the U.S. aggressors conducted Operation *Lien Ket* which involved 2 U.S. marine regiments, puppet Regiments 5 and 6 and 3 puppet ranger battalions, supported by hundreds of aircraft, tanks and armoured cars, dozens of warships of the 7th Fleet and many artillery units, against Que Son, Thang Binh, Tam Ky and Tien Phuoc. The local armed forces and people, fighting in close co-ordination, inflicted crushing blows on the raiders. According to preliminary reports, they put out of action more than 7,500 enemy troops, including 5,295 Americans. In terms of units, they destroyed 3 battalions, 4 companies and 2 platoons of American troops, and 6 companies and 5 platoons of puppet troops; they also captured a number of American and puppet troops, shot down or destroyed 95 aircraft of different types, and demolished 108 military vehicles.

QUANG NGAI: 1,860 ENEMY TROOPS WIPED OUT IN 3 WEEKS

DURING the engagements between May 1 and 21 in Quang Ngai province, the L.A.F. and people wiped out nearly 1,860 enemy troops, among them 1,398 Americans of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and 1st Air Mobile Cavalry Division, and brought down or damaged 20 choppers.

In the Southern part of the province from May 12 to May 18 the L.A.F. engaged many U.S. units operating in the villages of Pho Nhuan, Pho Nhon and Pho Phong of Duc Pho district, and other villages of Ba To district, to concentrate their inhabitants. 850 of the raiders were killed or wounded, 5 choppers shot down or destroyed and 5 M 113 armoured personnel carriers and 6 mortars blasted.

MY THO: 900 ENEMY TROOPS WIPED OUT IN AN OPERATION

FROM May 2 to 20, the L.A.F. and people of My Tho province completely smashed an enemy raid, wiping out more than 900 enemy

(Continued page 7)

The L.A.F. fighters are ready for action

The GIs after a battle

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